

MINUTES
MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 3, 2013

The Mount Vernon City Council met February 3, 2014 at Mount Vernon City Hall Chambers with the following members present: Roudabush, Taylor, Thompson, Niemi and Hampton.

1. Call to Order. At 6:29 p.m. Mayor James Moore called the meeting to order.
2. Approval of Agenda. With no changes noted a motion to approve the agenda was made by Hampton, seconded by Niemi. Carried all.
3. Consent Agenda. Motion made by Hampton, seconded by Thompson to approve the Consent Agenda. Carried all.

a. Approval of minutes of January 20 and January 27, 2014.

b. Claims for approval.

AIRGAS NORTH CENTRAL	SUPPLIES-PW	187.31
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-CEM	17.56
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-EMA	18.07
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-EMA	20.77
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-EMA	22.32
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&A	778.96
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&A	804.04
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&REC	19.90
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&REC	22.94
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&REC	23.40
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&REC	27.76
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&REC	56.64
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-POOL	78.31
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-RUT	1,974.92
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	26.76
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	33.37
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	326.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	369.79
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	2,770.83
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-ST LIGHTS	31.74
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-ST LIGHTS	41.20
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-ST LIGHTS	117.66
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-ST LIGHTS	3,204.87
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	6.49
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	11.05
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	21.55
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	24.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	36.84
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	141.49
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	244.84
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	365.04
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	425.97
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	507.11
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	3,000.17

ALLIANT ENERGY	KMVL	112.65
BALICHEK, RITA	CLEANING SERVICE-ALL DEPTS	87.50
BALICHEK, RITA	CLEANING SERVICE-P&A	52.50
BARNYARD SCREEN PRINTER	T-SHIRTS-P&REC	168.00
BARNYARD SCREEN PRINTER	T-SHIRTS-P&REC	482.00
BEIMER, MICHAEL R	MILEAGE-P&A	134.40
BENHART, SHERRIE	CLEANING SERVICE-ALL DEPTS	87.50
BENHART, SHERRIE	CLEANING SERVICE-P&A	52.50
BOBCAT OF CEDAR RAPIDS	SKIDLOADER MAINT-PW	59.18
BP	FUEL-PW	180.52
BUD'S AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR	EXPLORER/OIL CHG-WAT, SEW	49.13
CAMPBELL SUPPLY	GRIND WHEEL-RUT	30.32
CENTURY LINK	INTERNET CHGS-RUT, POOL	103.42
CENTURY LINK	PHONE CHGS-RUT	46.06
CENTURY LINK	PHONE CHGS-SEW	182.56
CENTURY LINK	PHONE CHGS-WAT	51.16
DECATUR ELECTRONICS INC	SPEED RADAR SIGN-PD	4,170.00
DELL MARKETING L.P.	MISC-PD	21.58
DOORS INC	RE-KEY OFFICE-WWTP	148.00
ELAN	TASER, TRAINING-PD	300.00
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING	INFORMATION SYSTEMS-PW	419.65
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING	PAGER SERVICE-EMA	11.95
FUTURE LINE TRUCK EQUIP	VEHICLE MAINT-RUT	52.31
GORDON LUMBER COMPANY	BLDG SUPPLIES-RUT	67.40
HIAWATHA WATER DEPT	METER ACCURACY CHECK-WAT	40.00
HOLMES-LEOPOLD, RJ	DEPOSIT REFUND-WAT	56.98
INTERSTATE GRAIN SERVICE	CALCIUM-RUT	1,774.50
IOWA CODIFICATION INC	CODE UPDATES-P&A	957.00
IOWA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFE	ON LINE WARRENTS-PD	300.00
IOWA PARK & REC ASSOCIATES	AQUATIC WORKSHOP-POOL	135.00
IOWA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOC	DUES-PD	30.00
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY	SHADE TREE COURSE-RUT	215.00
IPERS	IPERS	14,047.37
LINCOLN GRILL L.C.	LIQUOR LIC REFUND-P&A	112.50
LINN CO-OP OIL CO	FUEL-PW	2,722.33
LINN COUNTY PLANNING/DEV	BLDG PERMIT FEES/INSPECTIONS	1,507.30
LYNCH FORD	ACCELERATOR PEDAL-PD	487.69
LYNCH FORD	F150/5K MI MAINT, OIL CHG	38.31
MOORE, JAMES	MILEAGE-P&A	60.48
MOUNT VERNON BANK	NSF CHECK-WAT	63.99
MOUNT VERNON BANK & TRUST	NSF CHECK-WAT	50.00
MOUNT VERNON, CITY OF	DEPOSITS TO REFUNDS-WAT	43.02
NEAL'S WATER CONDITIONING	WATER/SALT-ALL DEPTS	54.75
OFFICE OF VEHICLE SERVICE	VEHICLE INSPECTIONS-PD	10.00
OVERHEAD DOOR CO	EMERGENCY RELEASE BRACKET	129.75
PAYROLL CLAIMS	TOTAL	1,863.21
PERSONAL TOUCH EMBROIDER	UNIFORMS-PD	102.00
POSTMASTER	PERMIT/TYPE MT/STANDARD MAIL	200.00
POSTMASTER	UTIL BILL POSTAGE-WAT, SEW, S/W	368.25
QUARTERMASTER	UNIFORMS-PD	549.63
RAPIDS REPRODUCTIONS INC	COPIES/ABCM CORP-RAB	69.82
RAPIDS REPRODUCTIONS INC	SUPPLIES-WAT, SEW	12.00
REGION I AWWA	OPERATORS MTG-WAT, SEW	20.00
SIDERS, MATT	MILEAGE-P&REC	64.40

SIMMONS PERRINE MOYER	LEGAL FEES-P&A	547.50
SIMMONS PERRINE MOYER	LEGAL FEES-P&A	3,315.00
SIMMONS PERRINE MOYER	LEGAL FEES-RAB	2,300.00
SPEER FINANCIAL INC	TIF PREP/DELIVERY-P&A	368.00
SPRINGER PEST SOLUTIONS	PEST CONTROL-VC, P&A	30.00
SQUIERS, KRISTA	RENT DEPOSIT-P&A	350.00
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	SUPPLIES-ALL DEPTS	132.65
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	SUPPLIES-ALL DEPTS	248.30
STORLA, PATRICIA	CLEANING SERVICE-FD	100.00
STORM STEEL	ANGLE IRON-PW	206.43
STORM STEEL	SUPPLIES-PW	50.90
STORM STEEL	SUPPLIES-PW	160.03
TEAMSTERS LOCAL 238	UNION DUES	567.00
UNITYPOINT CLINIC	MEMBERSHIP DUES-PW	50.00
US BANK	EQUIP, SUPPLIES, POSTAGE	1,236.88
US POSTAL SERVICE	METER POSTAGE-ALL DEPTS	2,000.00
WAPSI WASTE SERVICE	GB, RECY, LEAF-SW	22,313.54
WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED	CHEMICALS-WAT	1,780.00
WENDLING QUARRIES	SAND-RUT	789.20
WESTSIDE TIRE CO INC	VEHICLE MAINT-PD	146.94
WRIGHT, BEN	DRILL-PW	400.00

GRAND TOTAL	86,007.61
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c. Approval of liquor license renewals: Wilkie Liquors, Lincoln Wine Bar and C&D Lounge.

4. Open forum: each citizen limited to 5 minutes per discussion item. Slaton Anthony said he did not think the City should bond for more than 50% of the total capacity that is outside the reserves in any one given year. Anthony asked Council to consider adding an additional \$10k to the MVAAC FY15 budget but if no member brings forth any ideas it would not be spent.
5. Discussion and possible action on setting date for second Council meeting in February. Due to City Hall being closed on February 17th in observance of Presidents Day the council meeting will be on February 18, 2014. Motion to set the second Council meeting in February to the 18th was made by Niemi, seconded by Thompson. Carried all.
6. Second reading of Ordinance #1-20-2014A: An Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mount Vernon, Iowa, by amending provisions pertaining to Water Meters (Meter Testing). City Administrator Mike Beimer explained that the current ordinance allows the City to charge only \$25.00 if a resident asks to have their water meter tested. This does not cover the costs involved. The proposed ordinance changes the charge to \$100.00. Hampton moved to approve Ordinance #1-20-2014A, seconded by Taylor. Roll call vote all yes. Hampton made a motion to waive the time period between the second and third readings, seconded by Taylor. Roll call vote all yes. Hampton made a motion to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance #1-20-2014A, seconded by Taylor. Roll call vote all yes. Ordinance #1-20-2014A will be effective upon publication.

7. Second reading of Ordinance #1-20-2014B: An Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mount Vernon, Iowa, by amending provisions pertaining to Storm Water Utility (Calculation of Equivalent Units and Amount of Charge). Motion to approve Ordinance #1-20-2014B made by Hampton, seconded by Niemi. Roll call vote all yes. Hampton made a motion to waive the time period between the second and third readings of Ordinance #1-20-2014B, seconded Niemi. Taylor said that because the person that was directly involved in the changing of the ordinance wished to speak she made a motion to amend the motion giving him the opportunity to so. The motion died for lack of a second. Roll call all yes. Hampton made a motion to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance #1-20-2014B, seconded by Niemi. Roll call vote all yes.
8. City Engineer Report. FY14 street projects; 7th Street from 8th Avenue NW to 5th Avenue NW, 5th Avenue NW from 1st Street NW to 8th Street NW, and 3rd Avenue NW from 1st Street NW to 7th Street NW. Project specific details can be found on the City website; www.cityofmtvernon-ia.gov. The Iowa Concrete Paving Association nominated the roundabout project for two awards; the best roundabout and traffic management during construction. The award the City received was for traffic management and is now eligible for a national award.
9. Discussion and possible action on 28E agreement with Linn County for fringe area annexation agreement. Boggs said that he approached Chad Sands/ECICOG about drafting an annexation agreement between Mount Vernon, Lisbon and the county regarding where each entity would annex as they grow and a fringe area agreement. This agreement signed by all three would share the cost. Council will be given a map showing the corporate limits and proposed annexed area.
10. Continuing discussion of FY2015 budget: Ambulance/Library/Capital Projects, including trails. Chief Mark Winder asked that council approve an additional \$5,000.00 to the Police Department budget. The CRPD is making improvements to their range and have asked surrounding communities to help with that expense. In exchange the MVPD would be given a key to the range and a storage area. Council was in favor of the increase. The Lisbon-Mount Vernon Ambulance service asked that Council increase their FY15 support from \$6,800.00 to \$13,750.00; a \$6,950.00 increase (102.21%). Craig Allin explained that because they are having a hard time recruiting volunteers they are at the point where they need to hire a fulltime EMS paramedic manager. Council was in favor of the increase. Cole Library Paul Waelchli returned with information regarding the libraries' patronage and circulation data. The library was asking for \$58,000.00 for FY15 support, an increase of \$5,500.00. Council was in favor of the increase. Matt Siders, Park and Rec Director gave Council additional information regarding proposed trail projects and funding possibilities for the next 5-6 years. Explaining that the projects can be shifted from year to year they are listed so as to be contiguous with other current city projects. Another change, Siders noted, was that the larger Hwy 30/Nameplate trail was separated into phases in order for the City to more easily meet expenses. Mayor Moore said that he would like to see those trails that consider the safety of children given a priority. Thompson agreed saying she would be agreeable with the Eastside Stonebrook /MV School Property trail. Beimer said he would like to know the level of funding the Council is willing to spend on trails and what priority

do they want to assign trail projects to, if any. When asked how much TIF money can be used Beimer said that his “comfort level” is about \$255,000.00. If you extrapolate the public safety projects totaling \$175k it would leave about \$80,000.00 for trails but Beimer reminder council that taking TIF money diverts about 1/3 from the General Fund. Taylor said there is interest in the Highway 30/Nameplate trail; with the completion of the roundabouts to continue with the urbanization and beautification of the area. Beimer reminded all that if using TIF money the project has to be contracted out and certified to the County prior to December 1st. If using LOST money it can be budgeted and used anytime. Niemi said he has a problem spending TIF money on trails explaining that the Iowa Code 403 specifically states that TIF money is for alleviating urban blight for economic development and housing. Unless a trail can be shown doing that he did not think it should be used as a funding source especially when considering the challenge facing the community with the bypass. He continued saying he believes the City will need the TIF money to meet that challenge and he was against any trails that lead people to or from the east roundabout until after the bypass happens. He was in favor of trails or crosswalks that enhance safety for children. When he was asked if he saw the trail along Highway 30 as an economic development tool he replied “no, not at all”. Niemi suggested adding \$50,000.00 to the budget to hire an economic development consultant because he believes we will be facing challenges ahead that no one on council or in City government is qualified for or has the time to address. Looking for direction, Siders asked if Council was only willing to use LOST dollars to fund trails to which Niemi said his comfort level of using TIF dollars for trails will increase once the City has some kind of idea how much will be needed to develop the area south on Highway 1. Taylor stated that this is unfair and asked how many years it will take to get the information he is looking for from economic development. Continuing, Taylor said she thinks trails could be used as an economic development tool. Beimer suggested a compromise; \$50k in LOST III money for trails and \$50k from the General Fund for economic development. Council was in favor of this. Council needs to decide if they want to continue to pursue those trails funded with TIF monies and identified in the Urban Renewal Plan but if they want to add something different that is not in there then the Plan needs to be changed. A public hearing for the FY15 budget will be scheduled for the first meeting in March.

11. Discussion and possible action on filling Public Works Director position. Beimer said that at this time he does not recommend hiring another PW Director nor would he support going forward with a PW Director position due to circumstances that have arisen and will continue to be prevalent in the PW Department. Roudabush agreed adding that he believes that Beimer and Jim (Mayor Moore) can cover the position for the next 6-12 months. Hampton too agreed but not for the same reason and explained that this position was created because there was a great need identified; a lack of control or management with the team that Loren Hartelt was directing but under current circumstances the City would not be able to fill this role as intended and agreed with what Beimer was recommending. Hampton said the City lost a very valuable member of the staff; Loren brought a lot of energy/experience and we saw a great improvement in terms of efficiency, completed work and accountability. This position was not created on a whim; a lot of work went into the job description and responsibilities. It was a huge loss for Mount Vernon (Hartelt’s resignation). Taylor agreed with Hampton and added that she was not only sad for the

loss of a great employee she was sad for the reasons; it should not have happened. Mount Vernon needs that position and that level of professionalism, oversight and supervision in the workplace. Hartelt brought “a forward thinking ability” that could have helped the City move along into the future. Hampton said that he is concerned because Beimer’s plate is extremely full already with day to day business and now we expect him to direct our workforce. Thompson said that an employee has been identified and has worked in the department so it is not totally bereft of leadership. Going forward, Taylor said she has a real concern that the City does not lose more valuable City employees and hoped that they could make a determination that it isn’t going to happen. Niemi said he wasn’t really comfortable talking about confidential HR issues in public and those documents should not have been made public. Hampton disagreed saying it was a public document. Thompson said it can’t be guaranteed that there aren’t going to be people who leave employment of any business to which Taylor replied that employees should be given value and respect and a place to do their job and she doesn’t think Loren had those opportunities. Continuing, she said she does not want any other employees to be in that situation where they feel that they can’t work here anymore. Hampton said that he hoped everyone now knows what their roles and responsibilities are and we should trust our staff to do their jobs. Hampton made a motion not to fill the PW director’s position at this time, seconded by Niemi. Roll call all yes.

12. Old Business.

13. New Business. Taylor met with Jonathon Brand, President of Cornell College, discussing Cornell and City events. The Strategic Plan will be guiding Cornell in the next few years; it was a very positive meeting. Niemi stated that the MainStreet group has received a grant to do a study on the economic conditions of our uptown area. As part of this, questionnaires will be sent to all businesses and an inventory of all buildings will be done. This data will give direction identifying strengths and weaknesses.

As there was no further business to attend to the meeting adjourned, the time being 9:13 p.m., February 3, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Ripke
City Clerk

Reviewed and approved
Michael R. Beimer
City Administrator